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Drury, Margaret

From: Rafferty, Katherine
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2003 4:39 PM
To: Drury, Margaret
Subject: FW: Upland Rd/ Buena Vista Pk

Importance: High

2003 NOV 20 A 10:41
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

I am forwarding this email on behalf of Ms. Ryals.
Thank you.
Katherine

-----Original Message-----

From: rryrals [mailto:rryals@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2003 9:57 PM
To: Rafferty, Katherine
Subject: Upland Rd/ Buena Vista Pk
Importance: High

I am truly sorry I did not get a chance to make a statement at the council meeting tonight. We are not very good at "the political process" and really expected the issue to come up after the council's routine business.

Be that as it may, I would like to submit the following statement to accompany the petitions (we will get additional signatures-time did not allow getting even half way up and down Upland) and emails I gave you tonight:

The traffic on Upland Rd. has increased dramatically over the 8-9 years we have lived at the corner of Upland Rd. and Buena Vista Pk. It includes a lot more (and way too many) heavy construction trucks, lots of tow trucks, and even occasional Crystal Transport buses. The traffic is heavy, noisy and way too fast. At rush hour, standing on the sidewalk in front of my house, I cannot yell loud enough for my neighbor standing on the sidewalk on the other side of the street to hear me.

No one seems to obey the posted speed limit. In fact, there seems to be an attitude that the drivers have the right to go as fast as they wish and God help anyone who gets in their way. Amazingly, I have never seen the police give any one a ticket. Midway down the block from me there is an old lady with a cane who cannot cross her own street. Dogs and cats have been struck and bicyclists (commuting to/from work and living here) have come very close to being wiped out. Screaching tires are often heard as someone tries to exit Buena Vista Pk or Washington Rd. onto Upland Rd. I have several times witnessed someone so impatient to get on to where they must be that they

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went around a slow moving vehicle and continued down the hill toward Porter

Square for more than a block in the wrong lane, coming back over only to avoid a head in collision with a car coming up the hill.

Cars, delivery trucks, and tow trucks come racing up Upland Rd. from Porter Square and wip around the corner and down Buena Vista Pk. (a very narrow way

with cars on both sides) endangering anyone trying to back out of a driveway

or walk across the street. Sooner or later a child (and there are many of them on this part of Upland Rd. and on Buena Vista Pk.) will be hit.

This is an entirely residential neighborhood. Upland Rd. shouldn't be allowed to become a highway, a fast cut from Massachusetts Avenue to Alewife

or wherever. In addition to consistently enforcing the speed limit, the city needs to study the traffic patterns here and consider permanent ways (with input from the neighborhood) to put a stop to the abuses. Finally, the city needs to repair the bridge on Walden St. and get the heavy vehicle traffic off Upland Rd.

Thank you very much for your consideration. We are anxious to work with the

city to make this great neighborhood a lot safer.

Ruth Ryals
115 Upland Rd.
Cambridge, MA 02140
(617) 547-6453 Phone
rryals@comcast.net

P.S. Would you be so kind as to forward this statement to the council members?

375S

Communication #8

A communication was received
from Ruth Ryals, regarding
increased traffic on Upland Road.

In City Council November 24, 2003

REFERRED TO CITY MANAGER